

Status of Rangeland Ecological Site Interagency Manual

Prepared by:

Bob Bolton, Senior Rangeland Mgt.
Specialist, BLM, Washington D.C.

Presented by:

Bill Ypsilantis, Soil Scientist, BLM Denver



Background

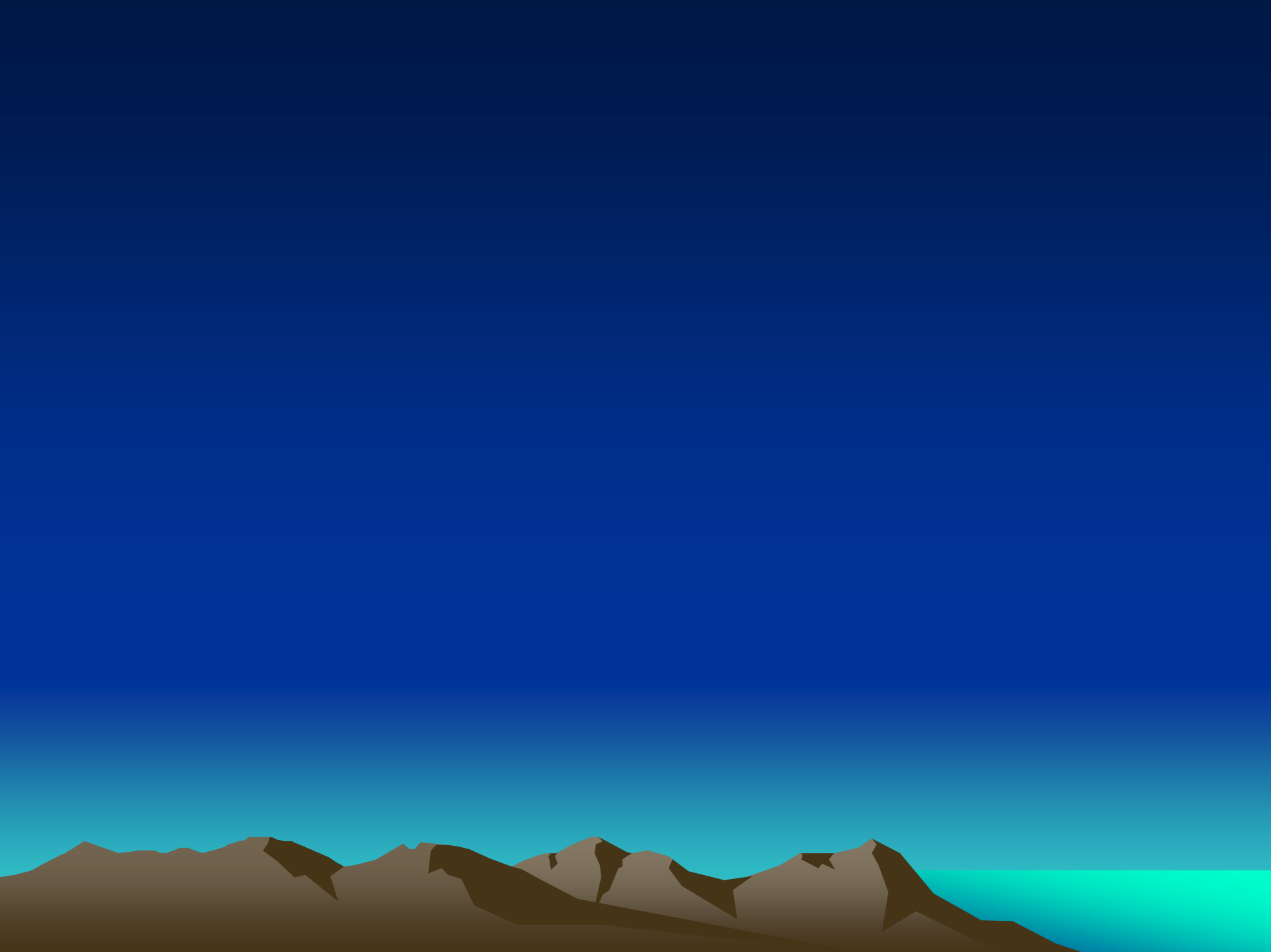
- USFS, NRCS, and BLM have used different methods to stratify rangeland ecosystems into units for planning, analysis and decision making.
- A standardized system to define and describe rangeland ecological sites will be more efficient and defensible
- Implementation of this policy will complement existing agency protocols for classifying, describing, mapping, and conducting inventory of soils and vegetation ecosystems



Objectives

- To implement a standardized system to define and describe a common unit for inventory, monitoring, evaluation, and management of rangeland ecosystems.
- To provide direction for the cooperative development and application of rangeland ecological site descriptions.
- To improve the ability to manage the landscape in a coordinated manner across ownership boundaries





Draft Manual Content

- 1.0 General
 - 2.0 Purpose
 - 3.0 Authorities
 - 4.0 Objectives
 - 5.0 Policy
 - 6.0 Responsibilities
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- Draft is 5 pages long.



Next Steps

- Working on logistics for interagency manual approval.
- Approve ES Manual and disseminate to regional, state, and field offices.
- Develop a Rangeland Ecological Site Handbook
 - A ‘how-to’ with detailed explanations to implement the ES Manual.
 - Currently being developed by NRCS, USFS, BLM reps.
 - Contacts are Curtis Talbot, NRCS; Jeff Dibenedetto, USFS; and Sherm Karl, BLM.

